

from this excavation were from a modern intrusive pit containing campers' debris. The timbers of the gun platform were measured, photographed, and the excavation refilled. A report of these excavations is to be included in a volume of Roanoke River studies now in preparation.

Once the courts decided in favor of the state, restrictions on examining the river bottom area were dropped and an assessment of the situation could be made. The first effort to examine the river bottom in the vicinity of the fortification was made by personnel from the Underwater Archaeology Branch on September 20, 1974. Unfortunately, high water and swift currents made work on the site impossible and the effort was abandoned after a series of exploratory dives. A second examination of the site was made on August 18, 1976. Taking advantage of seasonally low water, staff personnel were able to locate and identify several additional pieces amid accumulations of snags and debris. A single Blakely projectile was recovered for analysis and preservation, and a sample of water was taken to determine salinity and chemical content. Conditions in the river were found to improve considerably with low water and thus would not preclude the possibility of conducting a systematic recovery of the remaining material. Additional